

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for selectively deleting messages received by a radio telephone, the method being effected by the telephone and the method comprising:

detecting when the telephone has moved from a previous coverage area to a current coverage area;

selectively obtaining a set of coverage area specific messages stored in a memory associated with the telephone, the coverage area specific messages being from a set of messages received when the telephone was in the previous coverage area; and

automatically deleting the coverage area specific messages from the memory.

2. A method for selectively deleting messages, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selectively obtaining is effected by only selecting messages that are presumed to be generic messages sent by a service provider of the previous coverage area.

3. A method for selectively deleting messages, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selectively obtaining is effected by only selecting messages sent from one or more telephone numbers that do not correspond with any numbers stored in a telephone book database of known personal numbers, inserted by a user, that are identifiable by the telephone.

4. A method for selectively deleting messages, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selectively obtaining is effected by only selecting messages that have a content presumed to include generic advertising.

5. A method for selectively deleting messages, as claimed in claim 4, wherein the content may be presumed to include generic advertising by searching each of the messages for selected words.

6. A method for selectively deleting messages, as claimed in claim 1, selectively obtaining may include requesting confirmation from a user that a message is one of the coverage area specific messages.

5 7. A method for selectively deleting messages, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the obtaining is effected after arrival of the telephone at the current coverage area.

10 8. A method for selectively deleting messages, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the obtaining is effected before the telephone leaves the previous coverage area.

15 9. A method for selectively deleting messages, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detecting is characterized by detecting that the telephone has moved from the previous coverage area to the current coverage area when there is a change in a service provider cell communicating with the telephone.

10. A method for selectively deleting messages, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detecting is characterized by detecting that the telephone has moved from the previous coverage area to the current coverage area when the telephone moves from one cell to another cell or from one country to another country.